

Serial No.: 09/518,551
Filing Date: March 3, 2000
Amendment dated August 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2004

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in response to the final Office Action mailed 6 MAY 2004 and is timely filed on or before 6 August 2004. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration with an eye toward allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-18, 21-26 and 28-29 are pending prior to this amendment and of these Claims 4 and 10 are allowed. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-18, 21-26, 28 and 29 stand rejected. Claims 2, 5, 6, 28, and 29 are amended herein to depend directly or indirectly from one of the allowed claims 4 or 10. Claim 30 is added and is identical to allowed claim 4 as to the steps recited but cast in the form of a computer program product claim. Applicant submits that Claim 30 should be allowed for the same reasons as Claim 4. Applicant submits that no further search or examination is required and further than at least an equivalent number of claims have been cancelled in this Amendment. Claim 10, another computer program product claim, does not recite the identical steps as claim 4. Claims 1, 7-9, 11-23, 24, 25 stand cancelled, and are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer towards presenting it them a related application. Claims 2-6, 10, 24-25, 28, and 30 are pending and in condition for allowance after entry of this amendment. A complete listing of all claims that are, or were in the application, along with an appropriate status identifier, is provided above in the section entitled "Amendments to the Claims". Markings are provided on claims amended in the present amendment.

With reference to the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of the claims as being unpatentable over Uchihori (U.S. Patent No. 5,996,014) in view of Yoneya et. al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,996,014). Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims without prejudice and without admitting to the propriety of the rejection due to the limited ability to argue the merits of the rejection at a final office action stage.

Applicant trusts that the amendments presented here will place the application in condition for allowance and Applicant requests same.


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CONCLUSION

If the Examiner feels it would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (650) 494-8700.

Respectfully submitted,

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